

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 AID-05 CPR-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 INRE-00 /078 W

----- 039949

O R 251400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5569

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BG

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN BANGLADESH

REF: DACCA 0457

1. LATE THIS AFTERNOON FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO EXPLAIN TODAY'S AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION ESTABLISHING PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM.

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED REASONS FOR CHANGE AS FOLLOWS (A) EXPERIENCE LAST THREE YEARS PROVED FORMER SYSTEM INADEQUATE TO MEET CHALLENGES, AND NOW NECESSARY TO REMOVE LEGACIES OF PRE-LIBERATION PERIOD AND TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH LAW AND ORDER, (B) ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAN ONLY BE TACKLED BY CENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY STRESSED NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY, BDG REMAINED COMMITTED NON-ALIGNED POLICY, FRIENDSHIP

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WILL ALL COUNTRIES, CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR UN CHARTER AND

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ISLAMIC CONFERENCE,
COMMONWEALTH, ETC.

4. INTERNALLY GOAL OF BDG REMAINS TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH SOCIALISM IN SHORTEST TIME.

5. AS THIS REPRESENTS ONLY AN AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION,
NO RPT NO NEW DIPLOMATIC CREDENTIALS REQUIRED.

6. RECOMMEND WHITE HOUSE SEND APPROPRIATE NOTE OF
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOODNWISHES TO SHEIKH MUJIB WHO WAS SWORN
IN AS PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH WITHIN HOUR FOLLOWING
PASSAGE OF NEW AMENDMENTS.

7. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REFTTEL, DIPLOMATIC CORPS LARGELY
ADOPTING WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE AMIDST SPECULATION ABOUT LINE
UP OF NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH FORSEC SAID MAY BE EXPECTED
IN NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. AMUSING FOOTNOTE TO TODAYS
PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT WAS LOW LEVEL REPRESENTATION INDIAN
HIGHCOM TO AVOID, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE, IMPRESSION
SPECIAL INTEREST
OR INFLUENCE.
CHESLAW

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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